

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01

DHA-02 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /102 W
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P R 201251Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7453

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 0302

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

1. SUMMARY. SPAIN DECLARES ITSELF OUT OF SAHARA. MORE ARGUMENTS ON WHICH SIDE HAS THE REAL JEMAA. SOME SIGN THAT 24TH PARALLEL MAY BE GENERAL INDICATOR OF FUTURE MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN FRONTIER. ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT, FONMIN STILL ON ROAD WITH VISITS TO CAIRO AND NAIROBI. PRIME MIN ALSO TO VISIT MALTA. END SUMMARY.

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2. SPAIN DECLARES ITS ROLE IN SAHARA DECOLONIZATION COMPLETED.

LOCAL PRESS REPORTED, SURPRISINGLY WITHOUT COMMENT, SPANISH FONMIN'S JAN 16 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SPAIN HAD DEFINITELY LEFT SAHARA.

3. JEMAA NOTABLE DESCRIBES "ABDUCTION" BY ALGERIANS, FOILED POLISARIO INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION. JEMAA NOTABLE OULD BACHIR, WHOSE RETURN TO PRO-GOM RANKS REPORTED LAST WEEK (RABAT 0246), HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED HIS "ABDUCTION" TO ALGERIA ALONG WITH OTHER JEMAA MEMBERS. OULD BACHIR CHARGED THAT MEMBERS' LIVES HAD BEEN THREATENED TO FORCE THEM TO ACCEDE TO ALGERIAN DEMANDS TO ESTABLISH SAHARA PROVISIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. OULD BACHIR SAID ALGERIANS HAD PLANNED TO ANNOUNCE SAHARAN INDEPENDENCE THROUGH ASSEMBLY ON DEC 29, BUT JEMAA MEMBERS, AFTER CONVINCING ALGERIANS OF THEIR LOYALTY TO CAUSE, INDUCED ALGERIANS PERMIT THEM RETURN TO SAHARA. FROM THERE, OULD BACHIR CLAIMED, MOST OF GROUP MANAGED FIND ITS WAY BACK TO EL AYOUN ALTHOUGH SOME STILL BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILLS.

4. SITUATION IN SAHARA. GOM REMAINED SILENT ON GROUND ACTIVITY INSIDE SAHARA. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE SAID TAN TAN-TARFAYA ROAD HAD BEEN CLOSED IN RECENT DAYS FOR UNKNOWN REASON. WHETHER DUE SECURITY CONDITIONS OR RUMORED TRIP TO EL AYOUN BY KING UNCLEAR, HE NOTED, BUT EC AMBASSADORS HAD MET TO DISCUSS STRATEGY SHOULD KING GO TO EL AYOUN AND INVITE CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

5. MEANWHILE, GOM'S MILITARY CHIEF IN SAHARA, COL DLIMI, TOLD WESTERN NEWSMEN ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS LAST WEEK THAT GOM CONTENT TO LEAVE MAHBES, IN FAR NORTHEASTERN CORNER OF SAHARA NEAR TRI-BORDER AREA, IN POLISARIO HANDS "FOR TIME BEING".

6. MOROCCO-MAURITANIA: FRONTIER LINE: SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN JAN 20 PUBLISHED TWO AFP ARTICLES WHICH SEEMED TO TAKE FOR GRANTED EVENTUAL GIRM CONTROL OF DAKHLA (VILLA CISNEROS). ONE ARTICLE SPOKE OF GOM INTENTION TO REMOVE ITS SOLDIERS FROM THE TOWN, THE OTHER MENTIONED GIRM PLAN TO MAKE IT A FREE PORT. AFP SAID GIRM NOW CONTROLLED ALL OF SAHARA SOUTH OF 24TH PARALLEL. FRENCH DCM, HOWEVER, SAID ON JAN 19 THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD INDICATIONS THAT ULTIMATE DIVIDING LINE WOULD HEAD NORTHWARD
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FROM 24TH PARALLEL AT SOME POINT INLAND BEFORE IT REACHED PRESENT MAURITANIAN FRONTIER.

7. SPANISH-GOM DISCUSSIONS ON PHOSPHATES. PRESIDENT OF SPANISH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRY JUAN M. ANTONAZAS ARRIVED RABAT JAN 15 FOR DISCUSSIONS DESCRIBED BY SPANISH CHARGE AS DESIGNED TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF SAHARA PHOSPHATE AND FISHING ACCORDS. SPANISH OFFICIAL NOTED CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH

SPANISH WORKERS WHO BALKING AT RETURNING TO SAHARA AND TO SECURITY PROBLEMS AT BOU CRAA ITSELF WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN POSTPONEMENT OF SCHEDULED JAN 12 REOPENING.

8. MISSING FRENCH. FRENCH OFFICIAL SAID JAN 19 THERE STILL NO WORD ON GROUPOF FIVE MISSING FRENCH YOUTHS AND ONE MOROCCAN AND FRENCH INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THEIR FATE (ALGIERS 0106). FRENCH SAY POLISARIO HAS MOST RECENTLY DENIED HOLDING YOUTHS THROUGH AFP CORRESPONDENT, WHILE CONTINUING TO ACKNOWLEDGE HOLDING TWO "COOPERANTS" FROM AGADIR. FRENCH CONCERNED NOW THAT POLISARIO, REVERSING ITSELF AFTER ORIGINALLY CLAIMING KNOWLEDGE OF MATTER, MIGHT HAVE DECIDED SUCH CAPTIVES NOT EXPLOITABLE.

9. ALGERIAN BLACKMAIL OF FRANCE CHARGED. SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN JAN 20 PROMINENTLY RAN REPORT ON JAN 19 RADIO FRANCE BROADCAST WHICH ALLEGED ALGERIA HAD WARNED FRENCH OF ITS READINESS TO OFFER SOVIETS USE OR LEASE OF PORT OF MERS EL KEBIR. WARNING, STORY CHARGED, HAD BEEN MADE IN CONTEXT ALGERIAN ATTEMPTS OBTAIN FRENCH CONCESSIONS ON OUTSTANDING PETROLEUM AND IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO. ACCOMPANYING LE MATAIN EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZED ALLEGED POSITION AS "BLACKMAIL" OF FRANCE AND A "CARROT" FOR USSR.
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P R 201251Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7454

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 0302

10. ISTIQLAL REITERATE CLAIMS ON ALGERIAN TERRITORY. ISTIQLAL PARTY, WHOSE GRANDIOSE IDEOLOGICAL CONCEPT OF GREATER MOROCCO HAS HISTORICALLY STRETCHED FROM TERRITORY DEEP INSIDE ALGERIA SOUTHWARD TO INCLUDE TIMBUKTU AND MAURITANIA AND WESTWARD TO ENCOMPASS CANARIES, IN JAN 11 PARTY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RENEWED MOROCCAN "CLAIMS" ON TINDOUF, TOUAT, SAOURA, HOGAR, AND TIDIKILT. PARTY HAS ALSO REITERATED ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY DEAL INVOLVING CESSATION OF TERRITORY IN SAHARA (PRESUMABLY TO MAURITANIA) OR WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE RATIFICATION OF 1972 BORDER AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIA IN EXCHANGE FOR ALGERIAN ACCEPTANCE OF A MOROCCAN SAHARA.
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11. GOM FINDS ANOTHER UNHAPPY FORMER ALGERIAN OFFICIAL. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS JAN 16 PRINTED ARTICLE BY MUSTAPHA SEHIMI, DESCRIBED AS FORMER MEMBER OF FLN CENTRAL COMMITTEE. ARTICLE CRITICIZED OBJECTIVES BEING PURSUED BY ALGERIA AS "UNREAL AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE". SEHIMI WROTE THAT ALGERIA MUST KNOW THAT SITUATION IN EL AYOUN IS IRREVERSIBLE. SEHIMI, PRAISING "WISDOM AND CLAIRVOYANCE OF KING HASSAN", CONCLUDED THAT ALGERIA MOTIVATED BY "MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX" INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY BY ITS "GEO-POLITICAL AMBITIONS".

12. KING EXCHANGES MESSAGES, VISITORS WITH SADAT. FONMIN LARAKI ARRIVED IN CAIRO JAN 16 FOR TWO-DAY VISIT WHERE HE SAW SADAT AND DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM KING. (LARAKI HAS NOW PROCEEDED TO NAIROBI ON AN UNDISCLOSED FURTHER MISSION.) FORMER ISLAMIC LEAGUE SEC GEN HASSAN TOUHAMI MEANWHILE ARRIVED HERE JAN 16 CARRYING MESSAGE FROM SADAT. WE HAVE NO INFO ON CONTENT OR SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE MESSAGES.

13. PRIMIN OSMAN TO VISIT MALTA. SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED DCM JAN 13 ABOUT UPCOMING OSMAN VISIT TO MALTA (VALLETTA 0072), BUT SAID MINTOFF APPEARED INTERESTED IN USING MOROCCO TO RESTORE WARMTH IN MALTESE-SAUDI RELATIONS, WHICH HAD SUFFERED AFTER FAISAL'S DEATH. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RULE OUT

POSSIBLE LIBYAN ANGLE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DETECTED NO RECENT
LIBYAN OPENING TO MOROCCO FOLLOWING QADHAFI'S LAST MEETING WITH
BOUMEDIENE AND HIS SUBSEQUENT PRONOUNCEMENT IN FAVOR OF
F POLISARIO. END COMMENT.
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